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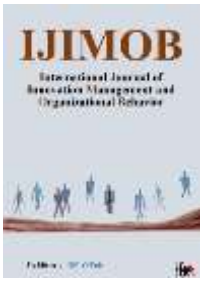

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Futures Studies of the Key Drivers Influencing Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) in Capital Market Companies

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the concluding portion of the Introduction, the manuscript argues that “Information symmetry may constitute one such driver because it directly affects financial users’ access to reliable and timely information. Information normativity may constitute another.” This wording risks partially anticipating the empirical findings before the analysis has been presented. Because information symmetry and information normativity ultimately emerge as the two dominant drivers in the MICMAC analysis, presenting them beforehand as likely principal drivers may create the appearance of confirmatory rather than genuinely exploratory analysis. I recommend revising this paragraph so that these concepts are introduced as theoretically plausible dimensions alongside professional capability, information-system quality, sustainability, and business dynamism, without privileging them before the empirical results.

The Methods section describes the study as "a mixed-methods, exploratory-developmental, and futures-oriented research design." The authors should clarify precisely why this qualifies as mixed-methods research rather than a sequential multi-method expert-based futures study. The so-called quantitative phase principally involves expert scoring, pairwise comparison, cross-impact matrices, MICMAC positioning, modal judgments, and scenario calculations rather than conventional quantitative hypothesis testing or statistical inference. A recognized mixed-methods typology should be specified, including the sequence, priority, and point of integration between qualitative and quantitative components. If the study does not satisfy a conventional mixed-methods design, the terminology "multi-method futures study" may be more methodologically accurate.

The Methods state that "Qualitative data were analyzed using thematic network analysis based on the approach developed by Attride-Stirling," whereas the Persian methodological description repeatedly refers to "grounded theory," open coding, second-level coding, selective coding, and the emergence of theory from the data. These are methodologically distinct traditions. Attride-Stirling's thematic networks involve basic, organizing, and global themes, while grounded theory employs coding procedures directed toward theoretical development. The manuscript should select one analytical framework and describe it consistently. If Attride-Stirling is the actual method, terminology such as "selective coding," "grounded theory," and "theory emerged from the data" should be removed unless the authors explicitly justify a hybrid analytical approach.

The cross-impact methodology needs significantly greater technical specification. The manuscript states that "Ordinal codes of 1, 2, and 3 were used to represent the nature of these relationships," but these codes appear to represent directional influence, reverse influence, and neutrality rather than increasing magnitudes on an ordinal scale. Calling them ordinal scores may therefore be misleading. The authors should explicitly define the coding system mathematically, explain how each expert selected a relationship, clarify how the modal direction was determined, state how ties were handled, and explain how individual judgments were aggregated into the final structural matrix. This is essential for reproducibility.

The interpretation of the MICMAC framework requires revision. The Results state that "the six organizing themes were concentrated in the autonomous and independent quadrants," and the figure labels the upper-left quadrant "Independent Quadrant," upper-right "Dependent Quadrant," lower-left "Autonomous Quadrant," and lower-right again "Dependent Quadrant." Standard influence-dependence mapping generally distinguishes autonomous, dependent, linkage/relay, and driving/independent variables. Having two quadrants labeled "Dependent" is conceptually problematic unless the authors are deliberately using a nonstandard classification. The axes, quadrant definitions, and terminology should be checked against the chosen MICMAC convention and corrected consistently in both text and Figure 1.

The conclusion that "professional skill enhancement (E3), information-system improvement (E4), social sustainability (E5), and business dynamism (E6) demonstrated relatively limited driving power under the existing conditions of the Iranian capital market" is stronger than the reported data justify. The matrix indicates relative influence and dependence within the six-theme system, but it does not demonstrate that these dimensions are unimportant or that they exert "little effect" in an absolute sense. The Discussion partially corrects this by describing them as enabling or downstream dimensions. The Results should adopt similarly cautious terminology, such as "lower relative driving power within the modeled system," to avoid conflating structural position with substantive insignificance.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

There is a serious numerical inconsistency in the qualitative sample and coding results that must be resolved throughout the manuscript. The revised Findings section reports "Across the 12 expert interviews, 282 open codes were identified," whereas the original results narrative elsewhere refers to 13 interviews and 303 open codes. The abstract also reports 12 interviews. These figures cannot coexist as alternative descriptions of the same analysis. The authors should return to the original coding database and establish the exact number of completed interviews, total open codes, number of codes retained after cleaning, and saturation point. All sections, tables, figures, and supplementary material should then report exactly the same values.

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The manuscript states that “Repetition became increasingly evident from approximately the seventh interview, and theoretical saturation was reached by the twelfth interview.” This claim requires a more transparent evidentiary basis. Merely observing repeated codes does not by itself demonstrate saturation. The authors should explain how saturation was operationalized, whether it referred to code saturation or meaning saturation, whether a saturation grid or code accumulation procedure was used, and whether the twelfth interview generated zero new basic themes. Reporting the number of new codes or themes contributed by successive interviews would substantially strengthen the credibility of this decision.

The participant-selection paragraph states that the qualitative sample comprised academic experts with expertise in accounting, information technology, financial reporting, and disclosure, selected through purposive and snowball procedures. However, no demographic or professional profile of the 12 experts is reported. Since the entire conceptual framework originates from expert judgment, readers need information on academic rank, years of professional experience, XBRL-related research or implementation experience, disciplinary specialization, and institutional affiliation category. These data do not need to compromise anonymity, but they are essential for judging whether the panel possessed sufficient and appropriately diverse expertise to support the thematic conclusions.

The manuscript reports that “The Delphi instrument used a seven-point Likert-type response format” and that themes were retained when “a mean score of at least 5.00 and an agreement coefficient of at least 0.50” was obtained. The definition and computation of the “agreement coefficient” must be provided. This term can refer to several different statistics, and the threshold of 0.50 has no interpretable methodological meaning unless the exact formula is stated. The authors should specify how agreement was calculated, justify both cutoffs with methodological literature, indicate whether the same experts participated in both rounds, report the number of respondents in each round, and explain whether anonymous controlled feedback was provided between Delphi rounds.

The Delphi findings require correction because the manuscript states that “only three of the 33 basic themes failed to reach the required thresholds.” Therefore, the number of retained themes must be 30. The original source material states that 31 conceptual themes remained, which is mathematically inconsistent. The revised version correctly uses 30, but this correction must be made everywhere in the manuscript, including the abstract, Results, Discussion, figures, and any conceptual framework. More importantly, the authors should clarify whether deletion of three basic themes altered the substantive definition of the corresponding organizing themes, particularly information symmetry and information normativity.

The quantitative sampling procedure is insufficiently transparent. The Methods indicate that “23 participants were recruited from among financial managers and heads of accounting departments in companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange,” but the cross-impact findings subsequently state that “Sixteen experts participated in this cross-impact assessment.” The manuscript must explain whether these are two separate expert panels, whether seven of the 23 participants did not complete the pairwise-comparison stage, or whether 16 belongs to a different analytical step. For every stage—Delphi, pairwise cross-impact analysis, uncertainty matrix, and final 0–10 scenario scoring—the exact sample size, participant characteristics, recruitment procedure, response rate, and relationship between panels should be reported.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.
Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.

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